

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Ms. Krosnick on June 15, 2011.

The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 has been replaced to read as "A pharmaceutical composition comprising a sodium channel blocker selected from the group consisting of lamotrigine and crobenetine, in combination with a selective serotonin uptake inhibitor selected from the group consisting of fluoxetine, paroxetine, sertraline, escitalopram and citalopram, wherein said composition has a potentiating effect."

Claim 16 has been replaced to read as "A method for the treatment of chronic pain or epilepsy in a mammal comprising administering to a mammal in need of the treatment a therapeutically effective amount of pharmaceutical composition comprising a sodium channel blocker selected from the group consisting of lamotrigine

and crobenetine, and a selective serotonin uptake inhibitor selected from the group consisting of fluoxetine, paroxetine, sertraline, escitalopram and citalopram, wherein said treatment has a potentiating effect."

Remarks

The above amendment places this case in condition for allowance.

Reasons for Allowance

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on May 20, 2011 has been entered.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The claims are allowable over the cited prior art because the prior art does not teach, disclose nor make obvious the claimed combination resulting in a potentiating effect in the treatment of pain or epilepsy. Applicants have provided data in the

specification that combination of the claimed active agents result in the potentiating activity (Figs 1-3, page 8).

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Correspondence

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JENNIFER M. KIM whose telephone number is (571)272-0628. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 6:30 am to 3 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brandon Fetterolf can be reached on 571-272-2919. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/JENNIFER M KIM/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1628

Jmk
June 15, 2011